

Appl. No. 10/528,494
Amdt. Date: 06/11/2007
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A floating platform comprising a ~~hull having a deck mounted on the upper end thereof extending~~ central column supporting one or more decks in a body of water above the water line and pontoons extending radially outwardly from the base of the ~~hull~~ central column, the improvement comprising removable temporary buoyancy means mounted on said pontoons at the distal ends thereof for maintaining the hydrostatic stability of said platform during installation.
2. (original) The floating platform of claim 1 wherein said temporary buoyancy means comprises a removable ballast tank secured on said pontoons at the distal ends thereof.
3. (original) The floating platform of claim 2 including a dry deck on said ballast tank supporting at least one winch thereon for connection with pre-installed tendons for developing initial pre-tension of said tendons.
4. (original) The floating platform of claim 1 wherein said temporary buoyancy means is hingedly secured to said pontoons.
5. (currently amended) A method of installing a floating platform, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing said platform with removable temporary buoyancy means for maintaining hydrostatic stability of said platform while ballasting down to the installation draft of said platform, wherein said temporary buoyancy means is hingedly secured to said platform and in a first position are horizontally disposed on said platform;

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- b) towing said platform to an installation site;
 - c) moving said buoyancy means to a second upright position;
 - d) ballasting down said platform to an installation draft;
 - e) connecting said platform to pre-installed tendons;
 - f) removing said temporary buoyancy means; and
 - g) deballasting said platform to develop the tendon pre-tension required to provide stability to said platform.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 including the step of providing winch means on said temporary buoyancy means for developing initial pre-tension in pre-installed tendons for anchoring said platform at the installation site.
7. (canceled).
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (original) The method of claim 5 including the step of ballasting down said platform without using a heavy lift crane vessel to maintain the hydrostatic stability of said floating platform.